

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 05401 190250Z

65

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 L-01 H-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-01 SAM-01

/039 W

----- 123990

P R 190212Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1510

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5401

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, K

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH KIM YONG-SAM

REF: SEOUL 3152

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING A LUNCH AT THE RESIDENCE JULY 18, OPPOSITION LEADER KIM YONG-SAM DISCUSSED THE ROK INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POLITICAL SCENE WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND POL COUNS. THROUGHOUT, KIM TOOK A DISTINCTLY MODERATE AND CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH AND INDICATED THAT HE WAS WILLING TO WORK WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO ACHIEVE STABILITY AT HOME AND TO FURTHER ROKG INTERESTS ABROAD. END SUMMARY.

1. ON THE INTERNAL SCENE, KIM SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO MEET OCCASIONALLY WITH PRESIDENT PARK IN ORDER TO EXCHANGE VIEWS. HE SAID THAT HE FELT HE "UNDERSTOOD" THE PRESIDENT AS A RESULT OF THEIR MID-MAY MEETING AND THAT HE HAD ELICITED AN UNDERSTANDING BY THE PRESIDENT OF HIS OWN POSITION. ONE CONCRETE RESULT OF THE MEETING, HE SAID, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 05401 190250Z

WAS THE LIFTING (SOME TWO MONTHS LATER) OF THE TONGA ILBO

ADVERTISING EMBARGO. KIM SAID IT WAS CLEAR THE GOVERNMENT HAD TRIED VERY HARD DURING THE ASSEMBLY SESSION TO ACCOMMODATE THE OPPOSITION, WHILE THE OPPOSITION MET THE GOVERNMENT MORE THAN HALF WAY BY NOT BOYCOTTING OR TRYING TO DISRUPT THE SESSION. KIM RECOGNIZED THAT THIS KIND OF COOPERATION PERMITTED THE OPPOSITION TO HAVE AN IMPACT ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, WHICH WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE IF THEY EMPLOYED ONLY OBSTRUCTIONIST AND SPOILING TACTICS.

2. QUESTIONED ABOUT HIS VIEWS ON THE FUTURE, KIM SAID THAT THE PRESENT QUIET PERIOD WOULD LAST THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, BUT IT WAS NOT PERMANENT. WHILE THE CURRENT SECURITY SCARE WAS GENUINE AND MOST OPPOSITIONIST TYPES WERE THEREFORE WILLING TO WITHHOLD THEIR ATTACKS ON THE ROKG THE SECURITY ISSUE WAS BOUND TO DIE DOWN, AND THE ATTACKS WOULD PROBABLY RESUME. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE STUDENTS, WOULD, AS USUAL, PRESENT THE GOVERNMENT WITH ITS MOST PRESSING PROBLEM.

3. KIM SAID HE WAS CONSIDERING URGING THE STUDENTS TO STUDY RATHER THAN DEMONSTRATE, LEAVING POLITICS TO THE POLITICIANS. SUCH A MOVE WOULD INDUCE THE GOVERNMENT TO RELAX OR ABOLISH EMERGENCY MEASURE 9. KIM NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT A MORE DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTION WAS THE OPPOSITION'S ULTIMATE GOAL.

4. REGARDING HIS TRIP TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, KIM SAID HE WOULD BE LEAVING JULY 26 TO VISIT HONG KONG, THAILAND, PHILIPPINES, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, TAIWAN AND JAPAN. HE WAS WORKING THROUGH MOFA AND THE VARIOUS EMBASSIES IN SEOUL TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH HIGH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION LEADERS. KIM IS CONSIDERING CALLING ON PRESIDENT PARK AFTER HIS RETURN TO REPORT ON THE VISIT.

5. KIM ASKED WHETHER HE OUGHT TO TRY TO VISIT THE PRC, NOTING THAT A JAPANESE CORRESPONDENT HE KNOW IN HONG KONG HAD OFFERED TO PUT HIM IN TOUCH WITH PRC OFFICIALS. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THE CHINESE WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO GRANT HIM A VISA, AND IF THEY DID, WOULD BE UNDER GREAT PRESSURE FROM THE NORTH KOREANS TO PORTRAY THE VISIT AS AN ANTI-ROKG MOVE. KIM RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO CONSULT WITH THE ROKG ON ANY APPROACHES HE MIGHT MAKE TO THE CHINESE. KIM ALSO ASKED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 05401 190250Z

WHETHER HE SHOULD SEND A MESSAGE TO SAIGON URGING THE RELEASE OF THE KOREANS BEING HELD IN SOUTH VIETNAM. HE WAS ADVISED TO CONSULT WITH HIS GOVERNMENT.

COMMENT: WHILE IT MAY NOT LAST, KIM SEEMS TO HAVE MADE THE TRANSFORMATION FROM A SCRAPPY AND INTRANSIGENT OPPONENT OF THE REGIME TO A MEMBER OF THE "LOYAL OPPOSITION". THE KEY TO HIS SHIFT IS PROBABLY A REALIZATION THAT NO ELEMENT IN

THE OPPOSITION -- THE NDP, THE STUDENTS, THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS,
OR THE PRESS -- HAS PROVEN WILLING OR ABLE SERIOUSLY TO
CHALLENGE THE ROKG. TO HAVE ANY INFLUENCE AT ALL, HE MUST
TRY TO WORK WITHIN THE SYSTEM. AT THE SAME TIME, KIM'S
FORTHCOMING TRIP TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, HIS FURTHER PLANNED
CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT, AND HIS VISIONS OF VISITS TO
PEKING AND OF SAVING KOREANS IN SAIGON INDICATE THAT HE IS
THINKING OF HIMSELF AS A STATESMAN -- A ROLE HE CANNOT PLAY
WITHOUT THE COOPERATION OF THE ROKG.
SNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SEOUL05401
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750249-1118
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750739/aaaabili.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 SEOUL 3152
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCUSSION WITH KIM YONG-SAM
TAGS: PINT, KS, US, (KIM YONG-SAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006